



# The Good Samaritan

## The Newsletter of World Medical Relief

WWW.WORLDMEDICALRELIEF.ORG

Summer/Fall 2018

# HELP TO SAVE OUR BUILDING

World Medical Relief moved to its new headquarters three years ago in August. It is a beautiful building and if you have not seen it yet, we are inviting you to come for a visit.

Unexpectedly—after all the building was inspected upon purchase—the roof started leaking severely this winter. The water is coming down primarily in the Eastern wing and the middle of the building, but the leaks are especially bad right over the administrative and local program section of the building.

After nighttime rainfall, World Medical Relief staff does not know what they are going to find when coming to work. Ceiling tiles are bulging downwards heavy from the soaked up water, an office door might not open because there is a heap of collapsed ceiling tiles behind it and standing water on the floor may cause slip hazards. Volunteers have trouble keeping their supplies dry and in certain areas have to move their packing operations off the ground on tables to avoid getting the boxes wet.

Over time some patch measures were taken and in the copier room plastic chutes were attached to the



underbelly of the roof to guide the water straight into buckets on the ground.

It is clear though that the roof needs to be repaired before the coming winter to prevent further damage to the building.

Roofing companies were asked for quotes and grant proposals were written and submitted but as of yet, none were granted. Since the building essentially needs a new roof, costs are estimated over \$100,000.

World Medical Relief is asking for your help with this crucial repair. A longtime volunteer offered her help and would like to **match donations** made in the month September - dollar for dollar - up to \$5,000. So please take her up on this offer and donate soon!

Donations may be made securely online at [www.worldmedicalrelief.org/donations](http://www.worldmedicalrelief.org/donations) or by check made out to World Medical Relief, 21725 Melrose Avenue, Southfield, MI 48075. A Fox 2 story about the roof problems can be found on the agency's website [www.worldmedicalrelief.org/roofrepair](http://www.worldmedicalrelief.org/roofrepair).

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



# The Good Samaritan

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## CEO MESSAGE

Many of you already met our new staff - Andrew Petrylka who replaced Julia Martin and is charged with the preparation of the shipping documents and assisting with the local programs, Travis Singleton as the second medical supply coordinator, specialized in packing, and my executive assistant Peter Tanaka who is a great addition to our team, making my work much more enjoyable.

Most recently we also filled the last open position with Thomas Barnett in the warehouse. Among his tasks is managing the local durable medical equipment inventory. Having such a great team has been beneficial to the growth of the international program - we are on track to ship more containers this year than ever before.

In May, World Medical Relief signed an agreement with the Philippine Government which really fueled our output. The shipments are used to outfit government hospitals, utilizing medical



students and nurses to sort medical supplies as a training exercise.

Recently our 14 year old truck decided that it wanted to retire. With the help of Vice-Chair Mike Baydoun, we were able to find suitable replacements that should serve our agency for many years to come. You will see the trucks on the road every work day to pick up donations from individuals and from area hospitals and clinics.

World Medical Relief's governing body was joined by Nidhal Garmo, a long time supporter and collaborator of World Medical Relief and World Medical Relief's Ambassador for the Middle East. Advisory board member Tom Komjathy was nominated and approved to also join the board of directors.

I had the pleasure of attending the farewell reception of board member Frank Krupanski who retired as the Director of logistics

and Support Services of the University of Michigan Hospital System (Michigan Medicine). Frank led this department for 31 years. The event was inspiring and a testament to the breadth of Frank's work at University of Michigan and the many friends he made along the way.

The 65th anniversary gala on Saturday, November 3, 2018, will be chaired by board members Dr. Ernestina Mack and Becky Tungol. Please help them to make the event a success by taking out an ad or become a (table) sponsor. We looking forward to seeing you there!

And last but not least: World Medical Relief has just expanded its hospital bed acquisition around the country from 4 to 16 states in hopes to better meet the demand from all over the world for the coveted hospital beds. Instrumental in this expansion was board member Rob Wright.



## FULL CIRCLE

When you look in World Medical Relief's archives, you will find many documents signed by John Lane (Jack) King.

Jack King was a Grosse Pointe attorney who volunteered his legal expertise to help Mrs. Auberlin, founder of World Medical Relief. Eventually he became the board chair and served the organization for more than 20 years.

Fast forward to a group of women from the US who were visiting Nyumbani village in Kenya.

The village, on more than 1,000 acres, houses up to 1,000 children and 100 grandparents, displaced by the Kenya AIDS epidemic, in small cottages.

The need for a place like Nyumbani couldn't be more pressing: over 200,000 Kenyan children under the age of 14 are infected with AIDS and an estimated 1.1 million Kenyan children are orphaned due to AIDS.

One of the women on the trip was Sara DeCarlo, daughter of Jack King. While volunteering, she found out that the village clinic's medical equipment was worn and that there was a shortage of medical supplies.



Former board chair Jack King, his daughter Sara DeCarlo, George Samson, President & CEO, and former board member Dr. Danan.

She shared this need with her father who often spoke of World Medical Relief which started in a woman's garage and would ultimately benefit the needy in all corners of the world. When the garage became unsuitable as a warehouse, it was her father who helped secure the building on Rosa Parks Boulevard in Detroit.

To possibly find a solution for the need in the Nyumbani Village, her father recommended to contact Dr. George Samson, CEO of World Medical Relief.

With the help of her fellow Nyumbani volunteer, Carol, who is a nurse, and Nyumbani U.S. Board member Tina Cleland, an assessment was made of the needs at the

various Nyumbani programs and the application for a World Medical Relief container shipment was submitted to World Medical Relief.

In April, Sara and her 93 year old father came to visit World Medical Relief. The building was toured and especially the pacemaker reconditioning facility was viewed with great interest.

The highlight of the visit for Sara was the moment that Dr. Samson handed her the acceptance letter, giving the green light of the container shipment to Kenya.

The money for the shipment was raised swiftly and when you read this article, chances are that the container has already arrived.

A thank you note from Sara reads: "Dad and I were so impressed with the volume of donations and their impact on the poor and needy of the world".



Aids orphan in Nyumbani

## LOADS OF LOVE to UKRAINE



Lynn Hackett was introduced to World Medical Relief 15 years ago by longtime volunteer Al and his wife Doria Danowski. Lynn moved away to Canada and became involved with Loads of Love, a humanitarian aid and mission society operating out of Chatham, Ontario.

She continued to collaborate with World Medical Relief and says, "I cannot tell you how much World Medical Relief has blessed the people we at Loads of Love reach out to with love and compassion. I remember years ago visiting WMR and picking up a car load of shoes for children in the Philippines. We took the shoes out of the boxes and literally had a car full of loose shoes ... going across the Canadian/United States border. This was quite the sight ... but we had favor".

She recently visited World Medical Relief with 5 board members of Loads of Love to see the new facility. Especially the pacemaker facility was jaw dropping, she says and an application for a container shipment was submitted on the spot.

The shipment requested was destined for Kiev in Ukraine where the mission is led by Ed Dickson who lives there with his family. When he moved

there 20 years ago, he found very sad orphans in the many orphanages. He began a program to serve them by providing birthday gifts (children often never had a birthday gift before), vitamins, a stove (so the kids can learn to cook a basic meal); a water heater (so the children don't have to bathe in cold water!).

Soon the ministry expanded to include seniors, refugees and local churches in Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Jordan.

The World Medical Relief container shipment held a lot of durable medical equipment for the seniors in Kiev. Seniors in the Ukraine are often very poor and have a life expectancy of only 67 years. 7.5 million Ukrainian retired senior citizen receive a basic pension of around 949 hryvnias per month (around \$40 US) which is less than a living wage.

Lynn says, "What World Medical Relief provides is a gift from heaven". People in the Ukraine were so used to not making any decisions, not having any rights and no initiative. Their facial expressions were dull, no life on them. Now it seems to be getting a bit better".

Even Ed Dickson, the overseas mission leader, reported that for the first time soldiers from the Presidential Regiment helped to unload a Loads of Love container.

Lynn continues, "Loved working with you guys! World Medical Relief is an amazing organization".

Loads of Love has another container shipment in the works, this time to Zambia.



## PEACE, SCRUBS & HYGIENE KITS

World Medical Relief distributes thousands of hygiene - personal care - kits to low income and homeless women, children, men, veterans and teens. Donors donate money and World Medical Relief's local program director, Carolyn Racklyeft, purchases the content of the kits, washcloth, towel, soap, toothpaste, tooth brush, deodorant, and shampoo in bulk.

One of the donors is the Rotary Club of Detroit which donated \$1,000 this year with the wish that their members could personally assemble the kits at World Medical Relief. Liaison between the club and World Medical Relief is the agency's former President & CEO, Rita Grezlik.

The Rotary Club of Detroit is one of the key sponsors of the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute hosted by the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at Wayne State University. Fred Pearson, the director of the Center is a Detroit Rotary club member.

The Summer Institute brings together 25 Southeast Michigan and international (high school) students to ensure the legacy of the great Detroit-born diplomat and civil rights pioneer, Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, the first person of color to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

When the time came to put the kits together, a team of 20 Detroit



area students, 6 visiting Columbian university students, Wayne State University volunteers and MI Coalition for Human Rights members were sent to World Medical Relief to assist.

The timing was perfect as their help was urgently needed. Not only to help to prepare the hygiene kits for distribution in Metro Detroit but also to assist with a shipment of linens for international humanitarian relief.

Beaumont Hospitals had just donated truck loads of scrubs, gowns and linens. This donation was a result of the merger of Beaumont Health System, Oakwood Healthcare and Botsford Hospital.

The medical staff of the various hospitals voted for a new uniform color of scrubs and everybody had to replace their current scrubs. Through its connection with World Medical Relief, the opportunity to donate the scrubs was offered to the staff and the result was an astronomical donation, not in the least because the scrubs were combined with a donation of lots of linens and patient gowns.

The students folded and packed the sheets in boxes to comply with customs regulations and the goods were loaded in containers destined for Kenya, Sudan, and some other very poor countries. "I am sure that it will be like receiving a lot of Christmas gifts for our recipients — you cannot imagine how scarce items like linens and scrubs are in the developing world.", says George Samson, President & CEO of World Medical Relief.

Fred Pearson, who accompanied the students, said that they had a great time and that the opportunity to serve was greatly appreciated. The experience also showed a "global connection" to them.

But perhaps the most memorable moment at World Medical Relief was lunch time when the students were invited to share food served by other volunteers and staff.

## Despair in the Arabian Peninsula



Every corner of a common family's life in Yemen has been touched by the war. People of this desert country on the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, lived a happy and simple life before the civil war began between the Houthis rebels and supporters of government three years ago.

Though one of the poorest countries in the Middle East, the daily life of a middle-class Yemeni was the same as the other middle class people around the world. They had family, jobs and used to go on vacations. Kids would play and run on the streets, while women shop at busy local markets. In the mornings, most Yemenis would go to nearest bread shop and pick up a loaf and a cup of coffee for breakfast and evenings would end with some quality time with friends and family.

Then, everything changed. The civilians of this war-torn country are now haunted by airstrikes, landmines and others attacks. Streets are littered with the remains of explosives and shelling. Dead bodies are received every day and neighbors and relatives gather at one house or another not for friendly conversations over coffee but to grieve and bury the dead.

Many have been displaced from their hometown and forced to move to dry and hot mountains, where basic survival is a challenge. There is no source of income or electricity, while access to food and water is extremely difficult. What makes this conflict so heartbreaking is its brutality towards the innocent civilians.

Till now, there has been over 4,500 bombings on public property including 70 on hospitals. The bloody war has not only resulted in the world's worst cholera epidemic but also paralyzed the country's health care system. Basic government functions, already shoddy, ceased almost entirely.

Nearly 22 million people out of a population of around 28 million people are in dire need of aid and the demand for medical equipment is widespread. The situation is so grave that the United Nations termed it as the world's worst humanitarian crisis in 2018.

Amidst this crisis, World Medical Relief along with partner United Muslim Relief (UMR) has been making an effort to reach the war victims.

World Medical Relief shipped over \$ 1.58 million worth of medical supplies to Yemen in September 2017. A number of challenges were making it difficult to reach those in need with the struggle starting from the moment the container lands at the port. The absence of a functioning government required the utmost expertise and ingenuity from partner UMR to get the humanitarian relief into to the country. Since the country is on the brink of collapse, there is no security and communication within the government.

But, despite all the challenges, our aid reached more than 30,000 people as UMR distributed the aid to three of the few functioning hospitals in Aden, once a thriving port city now toppled by war.

*Continued on page 7*

## Despair in the Arabian Peninsula - Continued



World Medical Relief's shipments, which contained surgical kits, mattresses, blankets and various types of antibiotics and medicines had a huge impact on thousands of Yemenis who are struggling to receive basic healthcare services.

The supplies were also used for women who were in need of urgent maternal health services. Accord-

ing to the United Nations, nearly 1.1 million pregnant women are suffering the consequences of the war and many of them develop complications due to poor hygiene.

"When it comes to medical supplies, World Medical Relief remains our top priority. We distribute items like surgical caps and gloves to hospitals, which help thousands of pregnant women, who are in dire need of basic sanitation. Thanks to World Medical Relief," says Aymen Aburahma, UMR's Director of Development.

But, this is not the end of the story. The war seems far from over and a catastrophic disease, Diphtheria, is knocking on Yemen's door. The outbreak would further cripple the country's health care system. Aymen says, "Together we can achieve more. George Samson is a dear friend and World Medical Relief is a valuable partner. Soon we'll expand our partnership to include Jordan as well. Let's keep saving lives."

## VOLUNTEERING TO CELEBRATE

Elise Woznicki is a project manager at Michigan Clinical Outcomes Research and Reporting Program (MCORRP), a longtime collaborator of World Medical Relief. When her future father-in-law came under hospice care, Elise and her future husband, Allan, decided to have a small celebration a few months before their larger wedding.

Her coworkers at MCORRP organized a "shower" for her and decided volunteering at World Medical Relief would be a perfect fit since she didn't need much by way of gifts. Elise said, "It was such a wonderful experience and I look forward to coming to help again soon!"



Elise Woznicki (center) surrounded by her MCORRP co-workers

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT



HAP employees designated their monthly Jeans Day donations to World Medical Relief. A total of \$1,333 was raised. HAP is a Michigan-based, nonprofit health plan that provides health coverage to individuals, companies and organizations. The company's staff and interns volunteer at World Medical Relief regularly. HAP is also a sponsor of the 65th anniversary gala.



Warner Norcross + Judd LLP which is a corporate law firm with over 220 attorneys practicing in eight offices throughout Michigan, donated \$2,500 for the pacemaker program. Thomas Komjathy, Director of SE Operations for Warner Norcross + Judd LLP is a member of World Medical Relief's board of directors.



American Axle & Manufacturing, Inc. employees put hundreds of personal care items together in fabric tote bags and donated the items to World Medical Relief. After adding towels and wash clothes, the totes were distributed to many homeless shelters.



### SUPPORT WORLD MEDICAL RELIEF WHILE YOU SHOP

Kroger approved World Medical Relief for its community rewards program. When you shop at Kroger, World Medical Relief will automatically receive a donation from Kroger. It only take a few seconds to enroll.

<https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/>

When asked which charity you want to support, type in **EQ311**.

## A WORLD'S FIRST

World Medical Relief held a dedication for the new Sheldon and Marion Davis Pacemaker Recycling Center on Saturday, June 9, 2018.

The Pacemaker Recycling Center is the new home of Project My Heart Your Heart, the first pacemaker reconditioning and recycling program in the world. The Center was made possible by a generous gift from Sheldon and Marion Davis in addition to other grants and private donations. Project My Heart Your Heart, in partnership with World Medical Relief, developed the innovative pacemaker reuse project to make refurbished lifesaving equipment available to low-income patients in need in underdeveloped countries.

Each year, over one million people around the world die due to a life-threatening slow heart rhythm and the lack of resources to get a pacemaker or an implantable defibrillator (ICD). Under the leadership of Kim Eagle MD, Director of the University of Michigan's Samuel and Jean Frankel Cardiovascular Center and Thomas Crawford MD, cardiac electrophysiologist at Michigan Medicine Cardiology, all aspects of pacemaker reuse were scientific



From the left: Mike Krause (Chair), Dr. Thomas Crawford, Sheldon Davis, George Samson, (President & CEO,) Marion Davis, Dr. Kim Eagle.

ally researched and approved by the FDA for export and use outside of the United States. World Medical Relief will now house the Pacemaker Recycling Center, the world's only pacemaker reconditioning center where thousands of devices arrive from across the country and are refurbished for future reuse.

"Through our national partnership with Implant Recycling, we have already received nearly 30,000 pacemakers from around the country," commented Dr. Kim Eagle. "Thanks to the work of Dr. Crawford, we have developed an international partnership with the Pan African Cardiac Society that trains African pacemaker implanters in South Africa who then go home to their native countries and perform these procedure – potentially saving countless lives!"

Project My Heart Your Heart, initially under the project lead of Timir Baman, MD, was developed after more than nine years of working closely with infectious disease experts, legal experts, ethical experts, health systems, engineers, pacemaker manufacturers, funeral homes and crematories.

Key project partners include Kim Eagle MD, Director, Samuel and Jean

Frankel Cardiovascular Center, Michigan Medicine, George Samson, PhD, World Medical Relief, Thomas Crawford MD, Michigan Medicine, Brad Waserman, President Implant Recycling, NEScientific (Waterbury, CT), and Michigan Clinical Outcomes Research and Reporting Program (MCCORRP) at the University of Michigan.

The event featured remarks from Project My Heart Your Heart founder Kim Eagle MD, World Medical Relief President & CEO George Samson PhD, current project lead Thomas Crawford MD, Board Chair Mike Krause, Southfield Mayor Ken Siver, and Congresswomen Brenda Lawrence.

For more information:  
[www.worldmedicalrelief.org/pacemaker-project](http://www.worldmedicalrelief.org/pacemaker-project)

## SUPPORTING PARTNERS' MISSIONS

With the support of foundations and individual donors, World Medical Relief was able to assist 148 agencies in Metro Detroit with blankets, hygiene kits and crib blankets in the program years 2016 and 2017. Here are a few examples of how World Medical Relief supports other organizations to fulfil their mission.



Thank you for the generous in-kind donation of 100 hygiene kits for our participants valued at \$400.00.

Many of the participants we serve live on very low fixed incomes and have ongoing needs for even the most basic necessities. We are happy to be able to provide these items to individuals in our housing programs.



Eric Burton—Community Housing Network



On behalf of the Washtenaw Offender Success program, our team would like to thank you for your generous donation. The hygiene kits will provide 50 individuals reentering society from incarcerations with supplies needed to succeed

We appreciate your support!

## International Mission Support Beaumont

Dear Mr. Samson,

The Department of Urology traveled to Monze Mission Hospital in Zambia for our annual mission trip January 26 – February 8, 2018.

We saw around 110 patients and performed approximately 42 surgeries and 20 procedures. We do all types of urology including vesico vaginal fistulas, nephrectomies, prostate surgery, undescended testicles, stone surgery and prolapse.

There is one particular story I would like to mention. We saw an 8 year old girl that has been continually leaking urine her entire life. She has not been able to attend school. We identified a duplicated left kidney. One ureter was inserting in the vagina. We reimplanted the ureter and the next day she was dry for the first time.

Thank you again for assisting us in making a difference in the lives of many.

Respectfully,



Kenneth M. Peters, MD  
Professor and Chair, Department of Urology  
Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine  
Chair, Department of Urology  
Beaumont Health - Royal Oak, Michigan 48073



# The Good Samaritan

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## CREATING YOUR LEGACY

### **Q. Can an average person leave a bequest?**

A. Definitely! Although very large gifts receive the most publicity, you can leave a gift of any amount. Thousands of Americans have given bequests through their wills, or have left a life insurance policy or a retirement plan to a nonprofit organization. All gifts are meaningful and greatly appreciated by the charities that receive them.

### **Q. Do I have to rewrite my will to leave a gift to charity?**

A. Fortunately, no, you do not need to re-think your entire estate plan in order to leave something to charity. You can simply ask your attorney to amend your will with a codicil so your favorite nonprofit organization(s) will be remembered.

### **Q. What if I am not sure how much money will be left to give?**

A. There are many ways to include a bequest through your estate plan. You can leave a specific dollar amount, or you can name a percentage of your estate that will go to a charity. You can also leave specific assets, such as a certificate of deposit, securities, real estate, or some or all of your retirement plan assets. It is also easy to name a charity to receive a life insurance policy that your family may no longer need.

### **Q. Are there tax advantages to giving a particular kind of legacy gift?**

A. If you leave a tax-deferred retirement plan, such as an IRA, to an heir, they will have to pay income tax on the funds they receive. However, if you leave retirement assets to a charity, the funds will pass to the organization tax-free and leave other assets for your heirs.

### **Q. Can I make a charitable gift that also provides financial security for my future?**

A. Yes! You may want to speak with a professional advisor about setting up a charitable remainder trust or a charitable gift annuity that will provide an immediate tax deduction and income to you, and will benefit a charity upon your death.

### **Q. Who should I talk to about a legacy gift?**

A. You should contact your attorney or financial advisor, a trust officer at your bank, or a development representative from your favorite charity. Your advisor at World Medical Relief is Josephine Jabara. She may be reached at phone: 313-866-5333 ext. 243 or by email [jjabara@worldmedicalrelief.org](mailto:jjabara@worldmedicalrelief.org)

**PROVIDE FOR THOSE YOU LOVE.  
AND THOSE WHOSE NAMES  
YOU'LL NEVER KNOW.**

Make a planned gift to the endowment of World Medical Relief and help us carry out our mission for years to come. To find out more contact Josephine Jabara at [jjabara@worldmedicalrelief.org](mailto:jjabara@worldmedicalrelief.org) or 313-866-5333 ext. 243.



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Founded in 1953, World Medical Relief's mission is to help the sick and poor, both at home and abroad, by collecting and distributing medicines, medical equipment, medical supplies and related materials.

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**65th Anniversary Gala—November 3, 2018**  
**St. John's Armenian Church & Banquet Center—6 p.m.**  
**Order your tickets now!**  
**<https://www.worldmedicalrelief.org/gala-tickets-2018>**

**2018 Fall Saturday Volunteer Dates:**  
September 8, 15, 22, 29  
October 6, 13, 20, 27  
November 3, 10, 17  
December 1 and 8